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Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

86- 0054

Executive Director

6 January 1986

Note For: PFIAB

Attention: Sandie

From: Office of the Executive Director

Pursuant to your request of this morning,
attached hereto is NI IIA 85-10009, "The Cuban
Presence in Angola."

Will you please return this document as
soon as you are finished with it. 25X1

Thank you very much.

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INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT

15 November 1985

THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA

This Interagency Intelligence Assessment was prepared under the auspices of the National Intelligence Officer for Africa. The Assessment was coordinated at the working level within the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and the intelligence organization of the Department of State. Also participating were the intelligence organizations of the Departments of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force; and the Headquarters, Marine Corps. Information available as of 8 November 1985 was used in the preparation of this Assessment.

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15 November 1985

INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT

THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA

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Cuban pilots comprise the primary operational component of the Angolan Air Force and often fly missions in support of FAPLA units operating against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Some Cuban advisers working closely with Angolan soldiers in the field also become involved in active combat. Most other Cuban forces, however, apparently avoid an active combat role and are employed primarily in defensive postures.

The Intelligence Community does not expect a significant increase in Cuban force levels in Angola during the next six months, although several hundred additional troops may arrive as the Cubans fill out newly formed units. We also do not anticipate any withdrawal of Cuban troops, even if FAPLA garners some major military successes against UNITA. A dramatic expansion of the UNITA insurgency could lead to another measurable increase in Cuban troop levels or a greater direct combat role by Cuban ground forces. Luanda and Havana both appear convinced of the need for a continued large Cuban military presence in Angola.

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